

The Voice of the Greater New Haven Jewish Community

SHALOM



A JCARR
family's journey
to freedom
page 12

NEW HAVEN

SPRING 2023 • NISSAN/IYAR 5783

Passover Seder Guide

pages 15-17





A lesson in love and understanding

I feel such "naches" having the tremendous honor to hold the office of president of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. Why is this such an honor and not a burden? Simply because I get to meet and work with so many wonderful and dedicated people, religious leaders and our outstanding federation professional staff, led by interim CEO Amy Holtz. We are so blessed to have such amazing people in our area.

As I think about awesome people, I want to share an email I received, with permission to share, from Sofia Tomanelli, an 11th grade student at Weston High School, who kindly gave me permission to share the letter with you.

"My name is Sofia Tomanelli. I come from a very big family of seven. This year for the first semester, I took the class 'Facing History and Ourselves,' to which I heard Andy Sarkany speak. In the class, we spent a lot of time analyzing the depths of the Holocaust—we focused on the acceleration of Hitler's emer-



Holocaust survivor Andy Sarkany often talks with students about this dark period in Jewish world history.

gence to power, bystanders and upstanders, justice, and whether or not reconciliation is truly achievable for such an atrocity. Learning about this with my teacher, Mrs. Klein, was powerful enough, but being able to listen to Andy speak took it to a whole other level.

Today, the legacy of the Holocaust lives through newly developed laws, documentation, and the emergence of institutions. Although we must stress the importance of these, I believe that it is important to cherish the testimonies of survivors. There are not many left, and with the acceleration of deniers of the Holocaust and blatant belittlement of the genocide, it's critical to make those voices heard—not

only to understand how truly terrible it was but also as a measure to prevent such atrocities like these in the future.

After hearing Andy speak, I have begun to choose my words more carefully—he provided a new outlook on the power of the word "hate" and how it should not be used as frequently as it is, so I have been attempting to avoid it. I have recognized the importance of using my voice, especially in light of Russia's war with Ukraine, the China-Taiwan dispute, etc. I strongly believe that if someone has the chance, they should take the time to listen to the testimonies of survivors—not just of the Holocaust, but of any type of genocide."

Sofia went on to share the impact that Andy's talk made not only on her but also on her older brother David who also attended the presentation and said this: "Andy—I will never forget that man!" And Sofia continued about Andy. "Your story will never be forgotten in my family. I firmly believe that no matter how old I get, I will never forget that day that I listened to you speak. You really are a beautiful person, and I promise to make it my mission to use my voice and respect others so that one day we can truly turn hate to love and hope. Thank you so much again for letting us be witnesses to your story."

If you have read this so far, my guess is you may have a tear in your eye...a tear of sadness for the horrors that so many people have faced over the years due to hate, a tear of fondness for a lovely young woman to be who was so impacted so much by Andy, and a tear of joy for the hope we have for a better world that we want for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.

I invite you to join us at our Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration (see ad below).

Gerry Barker

Gerry Barker, President, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

SHALOM NEW HAVEN

SHALOM NEW HAVEN is published six times per year and delivered free of charge to the Greater New Haven Jewish community by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

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- March 28 for May/June issue
- May 29 for July/August issue
- July 28 for September/October issue
- Sept. 28 for November/December issue
- Nov. 28 for January/February issue
- Jan. 28 for March/April issue

SUBMISSIONS

To submit an article or photo, please email snh@jewishnewhaven.org. Please include your contact information when submitting.

Space is limited; submission does not guarantee publication. All articles are subject to approval by the editorial board.

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UConn Hillel's Discovery Trip to Israel fosters understanding

UConn Hillel returned in January from its first ever Israel Discovery Tour, which brought 20 student leaders, both Jewish and non-Jewish, on an intensive and experiential 10-day trip to the Jewish state. Funded by a grant from the Maccabee Task Force (MTF), the trip provided students the opportunity to explore the region's complex history, grapple with nuanced political and religious realities, and explore the conflict from various perspectives.

Unlike many other trips, this trip took students into the heart of the conflict. Students heard from a broad range of voices, including David Benjamin, former chief legal advisor for the Israel Defense Force, Mohammad El Masri, Secretary General of the Fatah Movement, Khaled Abu Tomeh, an Arab Israeli journalist who covers Palestinian affairs for the Jerusalem Post and Lt. Colonel Eyal Hagbi, former commander of the IDF's Gaza Brigade. Participants visited the Palestinian Authority, Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria, the AIDA Refugee Camp, Ramallah and major Israeli cities to get a first-hand look at multiple perspectives of the current situation. This exposure will help students better understand the complexities inherent to the region and diffuse previously uninformed anti-Israel sentiment.

Students stayed on a kibbutz by the Sea of Galilee, visited Yad Vashem, the Golan Heights, the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Temple

Mount. During an interactive tour of the Peres Center for Innovation and Peace, they learned about programs focused on promoting peace between Israel and its neighbors, as well as the multitude of Israeli innovations in science, technology, and medicine. They also had the opportunity to hear from leaders within Israel's various ethnic minority communities including those from the Druze and Ethiopian communities.

Edina Oestreicher, UConn Hillel executive director, who staffed the trip, along with Israel Fellow Sapir Frieman, commented that, "This trip comes at an opportune time when anti-Israel sentiments are rising across campuses. By preparing our student leaders to factually tackle these challenges, we look forward to creating opportunities for coalition building and meaningful dialogue." William Herens '24, said of his experience, "When we think of Israel, more often than not we think 'contested', 'conflicted' or 'chaotic'. Now when I think of Israel I feel empathy and wonder."

By connecting some of UConn's most promising student leaders with one another in order to engage in meaningful conversation and learn from one another, this trip is part of a much broader strategic plan. Working with UConn Hillel, other faith organizations and cultural centers as well as university leadership, the students will participate in follow-up events that celebrate positive aspects of Israel and engage in outreach that will leverage the impact of the trip.



Students on UConn Hillel's Discover Trip to Israel enjoy a meal together.

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CORRECTION: In the Jan/Feb 2023 issue of Shalom New Haven, we mistakenly printed a photo of a stained glass window without a proper credit. The credit should say: Close-up of stained glass window at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, New Haven, designed by artist Cynthia Beth Ruben. PHOTO BY FRANK POOLE

PLEASE JOIN US!
Details at jewishnewhaven.org/events

Sunday, April 23 | 1:30 PM

YOM HASHOAH COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION

In-person or Via Zoom

To be held at the Holocaust Memorial
Whalley Avenue, New Haven

Jewish Federation OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Jewish Federation OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Yom Hazikaron
The Israeli Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism

Mon., April 24
6:30 PM
JCC Auditorium, 360 Amity Rd. Woodbridge

RSVP: jewishnewhaven.org/events

Jewish Federation OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Yom Ha'atzmaut
A celebration of Israel's Independence Day
Open to the community!

Sunday, April 30 | 2-4 PM
JCC Camp, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
Beth El Keser Israel
Congregation B'nai Jacob
Congregation Mishkan Israel
Congregation Or Shalom

Ezra Academy
Temple Beth David
Temple Beth Shalom
Temple Emanuel
Temple Beth Tikvah

Food by: Ladle & Loaf

RSVP: jewishnewhaven.org/events

Update on strategic plan

By Robyn Teplitzky & Amy Holtz

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven embarked on a community study in 2020 to ensure a professional analysis of the changing priorities of our Jewish community.

With the professional guidance of the Melior Group and Panoramic Strategy, and a committed group of volunteers, a strategic roadmap was implemented which includes five main goals. In a very short time, the Jewish Federation, in collaboration with local agencies, synagogues, and organizations, have implemented positive change.

We are pleased to report that the following programs, services, and campaign strategies have been put into place to ensure a vibrant and strong Jewish community.

Uniting Our Jewish Community

- Increased collaboration with partnering agencies and synagogues.
- Key initiatives targeting diversity and inclusion include the hiring of a Rabbi-in-Residence/JCRC director, increased engagement with Chapel Haven Schleifer Center and JEDI (Jewish Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion).

Empower Jewish Journeys

- Increased virtual and in-person programs (Cultural Arts, JCRC programs & events, PJ Library, Shalom Baby, Women's Philanthropy events and Dignity Grows program).

Securing our Jewish Community

Through a national partnership with SCN (Secure Community Network), the Regional Connecticut Security Initiative works to enhance the safety and security of Southern and Western Connecticut's Jewish communities. Together, we are working to foster a culture of empowerment, collaboration, and vigilance, ensuring that all Jewish organizations operate safely and securely.

- Michael Shanbrom joined us as the Regional Security Advisor (for a report on Michael's first year as RSA, see page 23).
- Installed safety measures at the JCC through a generous grant from the Arthur and Yvette Eder Security Fund, a fund at the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.
- Increased security at all agencies and synagogues through training and advocacy.

Advocacy

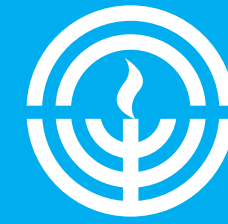
- Increased communication and calls to action around critical and urgent issues.
- Supported JFACT sponsored Governor's Mission to Israel.
- Increased partnership with the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League.
- Hired a full time JCRC Director & Rabbi in Residence.

Collaborative Programming through Impact Grants

A key priority was for our agencies and organizations was to reduce duplication of services and work together to provide and enhance Jewish content. One of the core responsibilities of the Jewish Federation is fundraising to support local and overseas humanitarian needs. As a result of the community survey responses, donors and stakeholders indicated that more funding should remain locally in our own community. Therefore, an initiative was implemented to create Impact Grants, providing the opportunity for new, creative, and collaborative requests to be made for funding. The Impact Grants are available to any Jewish organization, synagogue, or individual who has an idea that will address Jewish education, caring for the vulnerable, or engagement in the community.

The goals of this grant-based funding process are to:

- Unite our Jewish community, embracing diversity and strengthening relationships through shared values and goals.
- Empower Jewish journeys through learning and immersive experiences that create meaningful moments in Jewish life.
- Maximize impact by building bridges amongst the entire community to foster a robust Jewish community and encouraging collaboration between Jewish organizations to maximize resources.
- Advocate as a voice of the collective Jewish community.
- Enhance the quality of life in Greater New Haven by engaging unaffiliated members of our community to ensure Jewish continuity.
- Support creative and impactful community programs that nurture and advance Jewish values.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

There were four impact initiatives created in 2022 and new programs will be funded this year:

- Camp Laurelwood, PJ Library, & Temple Beth Tikvah – to provide engagement opportunities for intergenerational Jewish families living on the CT. Shoreline. The goal is to build bridges amongst the entire Greater New Haven Jewish community to maximize resources & support creative and impactful programs that nurture and advance Jewish values.
- Intro to Judaism Community Course – our local spiritual leaders are investing their time and talent to provide ongoing life-long Jewish learning opportunities. In partnership, Congregation Mishkan Israel (Hamden; Rabbi Brian Immerman), Congregation B'nai Jacob (Woodbridge; Rabbi Rona Shapiro), Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven (Orange; Rabbi Michael Farbman, Temple Beth David, (Cheshire; TBD) will initiate the program and have the commitment from the other leaders at Temple Beth Shalom (Hamden, Rabbi Benjamin Scolnic), and BEKI (New Haven, Rabbi Eric Woodward) will participate in offering Jewish learning classes.
- Jewish Family Services and JFS of Greater Hartford Uniper program— provides case management, emergency assistance, and homecare support for 248 Holocaust survivors across Connecticut, 92 of whom live in Greater New Haven. A shocking number of survivors live in poverty, and we work one-on-one with these individuals who have endured so much to help them age in place and live life as fully as possible. This new program uses free, user-friendly, TV-based Uniper technology that connects older adults with local community programs, helps them stay connected to friends and family, allows them to participate in online classes, and much more.
- Towers Community Garden – opportunity to revitalize the community campus to include a basketball court, functional garden for sustainability and educational purposes.

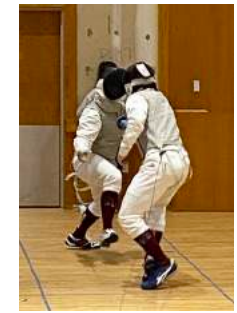
Jewish Education

We are fortunate to have received support to invest in a community educator and Community Relations Director. Rabbi Josh Pernick has been a valuable addition as a resource and leader. Some new programs include:

- Beit Midrash – learning opportunity The New Haven Beit Midrash is presented in partnership with Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, Congregation B'nai Jacob, Ezra Academy, Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), Congregation Mishkan Israel, Temple Beth David, Temple Emanuel, Temple Beth Tikvah, Or Shalom and Westville Synagogue.
- Slifka Center at Yale – partnership to present Dara Horn
- PJ Library – partnership on Jewish Latin and Ladino Programming
- Israel Education including the Beit Ha'am Film Series, a 3-part interactive series with our Israeli Partnership region of Afula – Gilboa. This was a value added program for those traveling with the community to Israel.

(Continued on page 26)

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| Bachelorette/Bachelor Partys | • Holiday Partys |
| Spa Events | Birthday Partys |

Contact Sandy at sandyh@jccnh.org or call (203) 387-2424 x251 to book your event or discuss your ideas.

SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Federation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Women's
Philanthropy

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY CAMPAIGN CLOSING EVENT

Join us to
CELEBRATE
the Annual
Campaign!

SPECIAL GUEST

BURNT TOAST:
A Memoir
of My
Immigrant
Grand-
mother
Author Nancy Gerber

Thursday, June 1 | 7 p.m.
JCC, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge

This event is to acknowledge the generosity and support of all donors to the 2023 Annual Women's Philanthropy Campaign.

More information coming soon!



JCC Day Camps
JCC OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

NOW HIRING

SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH US



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT OUR STAFF PAGE



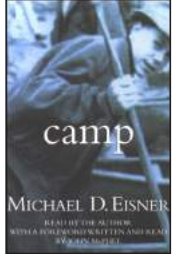

Or visit us online at
www.jccnh.org/camp
campdirector@jccnh.org
203-387-2424 x253

Why become a Camp Counselor?

Fun fact—Michael Eisner former CEO of Disney was a camp counselor in his teens and the experience had a huge impact on him and the skills and life lessons that he learned he carried with him throughout his career. He felt that being a camp counselor was the most valuable job that he ever had.

“Counselors help create our camp community. They set the loving, caring tone that turns worries into wonder and strangers into life-long friends. Counselors are parent figures, older siblings and role models, all rolled into one. They are problem-solvers, goal-setters and dream-makers – sometimes all at once. Their creativity, empathy and passion provide the seeds for each child’s summer of growth.”

Michael Eisner

The impact for Eisner was so great that in 2005 his book “Camp” was published. In the book he declares summer camp as an “Invaluable national institution”.

For more information on becoming a leader of tomorrow, email Debra Kirschner at campdirector@jccnh.org or call (203) 387-2424 x253.



Special funding available for smaller Jewish communities

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PJ LIBRARY PRESENTS: It's a PJ Library Purim!

Purim is here—that means costumes, giving charity, sending gifts to friends, and hamantaschen! Below is a brief look at the beautiful customs surrounding the holiday that the whole family can be a part of – plus, a list of resources, offered by PJ Library, to help your family celebrate this fun day!

Reading the Megillah

On Purim, the Megillah is read aloud in synagogues all over the world – and this is one time when no one is discouraged from making noise during the service! In fact, listeners shake their groggers (Yiddish for “noise-makers”) every time they hear the name of the villain of the story, Haman. Many communities also stage funny purim spiels (Yiddish for “plays”) to accompany the Megillah reading.

Giving Gifts to Friends and Neighbors

The second mitzvah is sending gifts, or mishloach manot which is Hebrew for Purim gift baskets. Gifts of food to friends and colleagues ensure that everyone has the means to be happy, further foiling the evil plans of Haman. Here are some easy gifts in a jar to assemble with your family for your mishloach this year. Don't forget to add a special gift tag too!

Eating a Special Meal

In addition to the purimspiel, the costume parade, and baking hamantaschen, many families also enjoy the Seudah, or the Purim feast. Basically, this commandment is to “eat, drink, and be merry.”

Giving Support to Those Who Need Help

Giving directly to those experiencing poverty, matanot l'evyonim, is the fourth mitzvah. Giving to others, especially on Purim, ensures that everyone has the means to celebrate during the holiday and also honors Esther and Mordechai's legacy of saving the Jewish people. Fulfilling the mitzvah of matanot l'evyonim can be as simple as dropping coins into a tzedakah box or making donations of food or clothing to a local pantry or shelter.



PURIM HUB:
pjlibrary.org/purim

HAMANTASCHEN RECIPES:
pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/february-2017/super-easy-hamantaschen-recipes-to-make-with-kids

THE FOUR MITZVOT OF PURIM:
pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/february-2019/learning-the-four-mitzvot-of-purim

PURIM PODCASTS AND VIDEOS:
pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/march-2022/announcing-new-purim-podcasts-and-videos



FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND RETREAT

2 OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:
June 9-11 OR Sept. 1-4 Camp Laurelwood, Madison

An all-inclusive family Shabbat weekend
Designed specifically for Jewish families with kids 12 and under

- Boating
- Unplugging to connect with family
- Songs around the campfire



For more info, and to RSVP, visit:
campl laurelwood.org/jewish-family-camp




TASTE OF CAMP

Sunday, April 16 | 2-4 PM | FREE

Ages 4-9
siblings welcome!



Join PJ Library and Camp Laurelwood for a taste of camp—activities may include arts and crafts, archery, a nature walk, and snacks around a bonfire. Don't miss out on this free, outdoor, family-friendly opportunity to get outside and meet new and old friends ahead of our family weekend retreat in June.

LOCATION: Camp Laurelwood, 463 Summer Hill Road, Madison

jewishnewhaven.org/pj-library

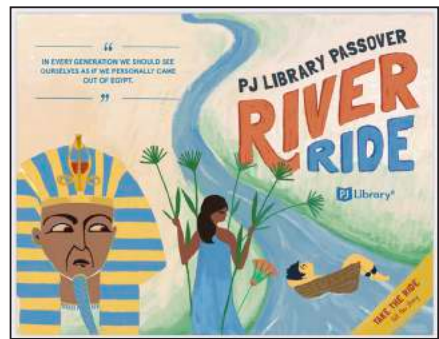


TOUCH A TRUCK ...IS BACK!
Sunday, May 21 | 10-2
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge
jccnh.org/events



Come for TOUCH A TRUCK and stay for EXPECTING EXPO

PJ LIBRARY PRESENTS: Pre-Passover Journey on the Shoreline Trolley



SUNDAY, MARCH 12 | 1-2:30 P.M.
 THE SHORELINE TROLLEY MUSEUM,
 17 River Street, East Haven, CT

Join Camp Laurelwood, Ezra Academy & PJ Library for a pre-Passover journey.

Take a trolley ride with us to learn the Passover story with multiple hands-on and interactive activities and a craft to take home and enjoy during the Seder.

This event will be most enjoyed by families with children ages 4-9, siblings and grandparents are always welcome.

For more information, please contact Kayla Bisbee at kbisbee@jewishnewhaven.org or (203) 387-2424 x300.



“Shalom Baby” is on the grow – with an “Expecting Expo” planned for May!

“Shalom Baby” was launched in the spring of 2020 as an initiative of Women’s Philanthropy through the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. Though, owing to the pandemic, the original thought – to host a large community baby shower–did not come to fruition, neither did it deter the Shalom Baby co-chairs and our generous Jewish community from the goal of helping young families embark along the journey that is parenthood during what was an especially isolating time.

Rather than launching with the bang of a large event, Shalom Baby began in true 2020 fashion, with smiles hidden behind masks and socially distanced porch visits, to spark connection between families. These visits welcomed new babies to the Jewish community with the gift of a beautiful tote bag packed with quality items, thanks to an outpouring of generosity from our many community sponsors.

Some families living in the same neighborhoods without local family support connected to create pods of stroller walking groups. Today, you can still spot them gathering together for Shabbat and holidays and attending PJ Library programs along with their toddlers who are now the best of friends. As health restrictions eased, we began one on one coffee dates and walking meetups across the greater New Haven area and even a Shalom Baby concert last summer.

Our new co-chair, Rebecca Gerber, moved back to town with her husband and baby girl from New York City at the start of the pandemic and was one of our earliest recipients of Shalom Baby. Since then, Rebecca and her family have

become eager volunteers. Along with her mother, Ruth Ratner, and her mother-in-law, Nancy Gerber, Rebecca kindly agreed to co-chair the next stage of this initiative. Under our new leadership, we have hosted a weekly “Shalom Baby Café,” with families with babies as young as 4 weeks (!) getting together to bond as Jewish parents whether this is their first or fourth baby. We intend to grow these meetups outside the walls of the JCC with a spin, Shalom Baby on the Go! Keep an eye out for details about these weekly meetups. We welcome your suggestions for a preferred day, time and location for these pop-up gatherings (a park in Cheshire, a coffee shop in Madison, walking trail in Milford?) by emailing Kayla at kbisbee@jewishnewhaven.org.

While we never did have that community baby shower, we are thrilled to announce the Expecting Expo, to be held on Sunday, May 21 at the JCC of Greater New Haven. Enjoy resources from pregnancy to pre-K with expert presentations, free classes (Pilates Palooza, infant CPR), free car seat safety checks and so much more. Register now – the first 100 registrants will receive complimentary swag bags. The event will also feature many fabulous raffle prizes.

Learn more at jewishnewhaven.org/shalom-baby.



“Shalom Baby” moms and babies enjoy fun time getting to know one another.



Little ones make best friends at “Shalom Baby” events.

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jewishnewhaven.org/shalom-baby

EXPECTING EXPO 2023

Sunday, May 21 | 10 am-2 pm

Pregnancy to Pre-K

Beckerman Lender
 Jewish Community Building
 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge

• Free & open to the public
 • Free gift bag for the first 100 attendees
 • Generous raffle prizes (free to enter!)

• Expert speakers
 • Kid zone, professional photos, giveaways
 • Free classes including Infant CPR/First Aid & Pilates Palooza

Contact Kayla Bisbee at kbisbee@jewisnewhaven.org
 To learn more, scan the QR code or visit jewishnewhaven.org/expo23

Come for Expecting Expo and visit Touch a Truck

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Sensing Connections: The work of Cynthia Beth Rubin on Exhibit



On exhibit at the Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI) Art Gallery through March is a fascinating retrospective by artist Cynthia Beth Rubin entitled Sensing Connections. On view since early January, the exhibition continues through the month of March, with an artist talk/Shabbat schmooze on March 4.

In works spanning decades of explorations, Rubin, a BEKI member, depicts imagined sensations of the unseeable yet essential aspects of our world. Collaborating with the Menden-Deuer Oceanography lab at the University of Rhode Island, recent work explores the question of how we bring empathy, awareness, and curiosity to the unseen or rarely seen microscopic life of the ocean. This work often intertwines plankton with medieval Hebrew manuscripts, drawing on research she undertook in the late 1980s exploring motifs of cultural distinction in a tradition of ongoing commentary, reinterpretation, and embellishment. Rubin considers how the unknown meanings implied in the layered text interrelate with the unknown in science, while exploring the similarities in pattern and form between microscopic life and decorative patterns developed centuries ago.

Earlier works by Rubin, including paintings on canvas and a pioneering digital image from 1984, provide context to the more recent works. The exhibition also includes selections from the ongoing artist's collaborative project with Yona Verwer and Kris Tonski, Zodiacs on the Lower East Side, as well as still images from Layered Histories, her collaborative interactive work with Bob Gluck.

Rubin's work has been recognized internationally through exhibitions and film festivals, including Creative Tech Week in New York City, the Jerusalem Biennial, the Siberia State Art Museum, the Kyrgyzstan State Museum, and in cities such as Paris, New York, Toronto, Montréal and elsewhere around the world. Rubin's videos, and interactive works have been shown on the ICC tower facade in Hong Kong, the Jewish Museum in Prague, the Cotton Club screen in Harlem, the ICA in London, and numerous international festivals featuring digital art. Her video les affinités recouvrées (Recovered Affinities) was featured opening night of multiple Jewish Film Festivals and other venues around the world.

A three-time recipient of grants from the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, Rubin has been awarded international artist residencies and grants from sources as diverse as VidéoChroniques (Marseilles) and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.

For this special exhibition, the artist, will donate 100 percent of the sales to BEKI for many of the works in the exhibition. *For more info, visit BEKI at beki.org/our-community/gallery-art/cynthia-beth-rubin*



Interior Daffodil Arch,
1986

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AT THE JCC Do you have a strategy for self-care?

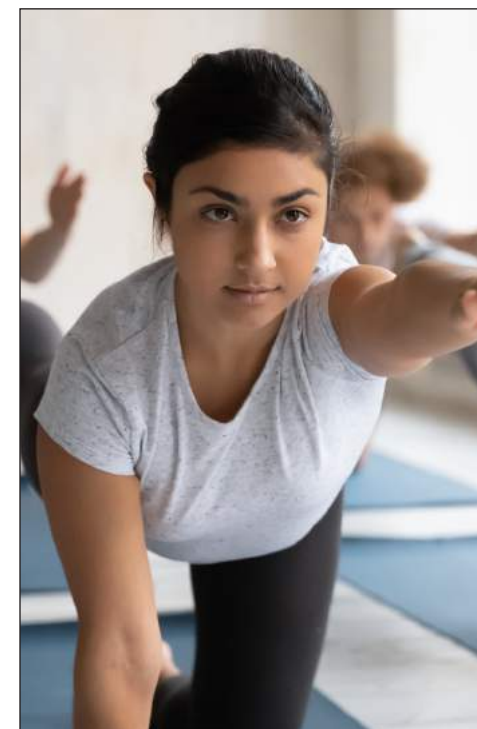
By Susan Donovan
Director of Wellness & Group Exercise,
JCC of Greater New Haven

A difficult lesson to process, as we are conditioned by society to believe that our only value is in our productivity, but looking out for #1 doesn't make you selfish—it keeps you alive and in a better position to help others. Think of it like you maintain your car or your taking care of your garden, we would not survive without some level of self-care. Easier said than done though for many who tend to put themselves at the bottom of the priority list.

My suggestion is to have a strategy that works best for you. Each of us adapt to making changes (even small ones) differently. Here are two simple strategies that can help prioritizing new health and wellness habits.

- 1 Include yourself in your daily or weekly to-do list. Schedule it! There's value in seeing an appointment or a written goal, you are telling yourself that this deserves priority.
- 2 Choose a reward that is relevant to the habit you're trying to create and give yourself credit for achieving those smaller goals. A great way to reinforce healthy habits for self-care.

Whether your intention is to embark on a new wellness journey or revisit an old one, the best way to succeed is to first demonstrate the importance of self-care



to yourself, determine which aspects you want to change or enhance, then create a strategy to reinforce those aspects by creating habits that make your pursuits enriching and rewarding. In the end, your self-care strategy will allow you to enjoy a better life experience overall—you're worth it!

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A JCARR family's journey

By Lina Lawall
JCAAR News, Editor

Every family seeking refuge in the United States has a story to tell.

Consider the story of Yuri, Olga, Emma, and Masha. They reunited two weeks ago when Yuri drove to Canada to bring his wife, Olga, and their two daughters, Emma and Masha, to Connecticut. It was a long drive to their new apartment that JCARR helped procure. We thank them for sharing their story and are grateful for Rabbi Farbman for translating the conversation.

It all began on February 24, 2022, says Yuri, when a bomb exploded at the military base approximately 500 yards away. It was then they knew they could not safely remain in their home. Difficult and sad as it was, it was time to leave Ukraine. Initially, they thought they would soon return, but that seemed less likely as the war continued. Their path led to Spain, Canada, and then the U.S. Eventually, they realized that they wanted this move to be permanent.

Connecticut was attractive for several reasons. Yuri has a half-brother who immigrated to the state 20 years ago. Their oldest daughter is living in New York, where she is developing her profession as a makeup artist. Yuri and Olga want a safe environment for Emma and Masha "... to develop in the life we do not know." Like most parents, they want safety and opportunities for their children. Yuri

says, "People still dream of the U.S. as the land of freedom and opportunity."

The decision to move to Connecticut was finalized when Yuri was offered a job. Olga said, "We couldn't imagine what it would be like. On this journey, we learned that things would not work the way you expect them to. So we decided not to have expectations but to treat it as an adventure. We did not expect the kind of loving care we have been overwhelmed with." With that, several of us reached for Kleenexes.

In Ukraine, Olga and Yuri worked together in the tourism industry, organizing children's programs, fancy balls, tours of the country, and screen-free programs for kids, to name just a few. Their work fostered an attitude of "get up and go, explore, adjust to new realities, and have a sense of adventure." This work requires attention to detail and patience when dealing with bureaucracy, traits that have served them well on this journey. Emma worked with children and teens for several years. While in Spain, Emma and her father organized a camp for the Ukrainian refugee children. Every day they organized activities, giving the youth a focus for their time and the parents much-needed breathing space. When Rabbi Farbman and his son Sam were in Spain, they were impressed by Emma's capabilities. Emma says, "I love working with children and teens and want to explore different options for doing that as I continue my education."



Olga and Yuri with their daughters.

Rabbi Farbman notes, "When you don't know what to do when a disaster falls on your head, think about helping others." This is a family that knows how to do precisely that. As they adjust to living in a new environment, their attitudes and skills serve them well. Yuri says, "We dealt with bureaucracy in Spain and Canada, but nothing is as complex as the U.S." And yet, they started the process for themselves - using YouTube videos as a guide. Jean Silk of JCARR notes, "We've never had a family file the various applications for social services independently."

As part of settling in, the family is eager to explore the area's cultural offerings. They look forward to visiting museums, festivals and attending cultural events. Emma is grateful for the community she experienced while attending Kabbalat Shabbat in Spain and looks forward to learning more.

She sums up the family's gratitude when she says, "I could never have imagined how many people we'd meet who would go out of their way to help us."



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“Fly with Us” contest will send a New England family to Israel

By Stacey Dresner
Associate Editor, Southern New England Jewish Ledger

Most Jewish educators would agree that one of the best ways to instill a love of Israel is to travel to Israel. Which is the goal of “Fly With Us,” a contest for Jewish families around New England presented by the Boston-based educational nonprofit Returning the Sparks and several Jewish organizations including the Consulate General of Israel to England and the Israel Ministry of Tourism. This contest is supported by our own Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, as well as Federations in Stamford, Central Massachusetts and Western MA.

One family will be awarded four Delta Premium Select round trip tickets from the United States to Tel Aviv, and \$5,000 which can be used towards a trip with the tour operator, Authentic Israel. The grand-prize winner will be selected by a panel of Returning the Sparks and Consulate General of Israel to New England staff and advisors and announced on the website on Yom Ha’atzmaut—April 26.

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is working with all local Hebrew schools and Jewish day schools to encourage their families to take part in this program. The Federation will also offer a special gift to the local “winner” of this program, as judged by a team of local panelists, said Interim CEO Amy Holtz. “We chose Fly With Us because it is an opportunity to take part in a regional program with partners across the Federations throughout New England, providing a great opportunity to collaborate with our neighboring communities,” she noted. “We are trying to keep Israel engagement high on our list of communal educational priorities, particularly for our young families,” added Rabbi Josh Pernick, director of the New Haven Federations Jewish Community Relations Council. “Israel’s 75th birthday provides a natural opportunity to engage families in conversations about Israel, as often conversations about Israel, when they happen, take place within formal educational programs.

Families with children 7–17 can enter (deadline March 16) at flywithus2israel.com.

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HAPPY
Passover

Jewish Federation OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Jewish Foundation OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

JCC OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

The elements of the Passover Seder explained

THIS YEAR, the eight-day festival of Passover starts on the evening of Wednesday, April 5 and ends at sunset on Thursday, April 13 (in Israel the holiday is celebrated seven days, ending on April 12). Like all Jewish holidays, the passover begins at sunset of the previous day; thus, the first seder is held the evening of Wednesday, April 12.

A SPRING FESTIVAL, Passover starts on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan. It is one of the most important celebrations on the Hebrew calendar commemorating the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. It begins with families gathering together the first night for dinner called seder. In Israel, only one seder is held.

PASSOVER IS ALL ABOUT SYMBOLISM, with the various elements of the Seder representing different elements of our escape from slavery and our journey to freedom and redemption. And so, recently, Rabbi Josh Pernick, director of the New Haven Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and rabbi in residence for the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, asked several of our local rabbis to dissect the seder, with each one—including Rabbi Pernick himself, offering insights into the significance of various elements of the Seder. Here is what they had to say.

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MATZAH
Rabbi Eric Woodward,
Beth El-Keser Israel, Westville

Matzah is understood as having two seemingly opposite names: the bread of affliction, and the bread of freedom. But this dual nature of matzah, which reminds us both of slavery and freedom, of suffering and redemption, of pain and healing, actually invites us to reflect on the inter-connectedness of our lives. Pesach is about thinking of ourselves as interconnected with other Jews and with the world around us—and using that inter-connectedness to foster empathy, care, and a push for liberation.

MAROR
Rabbi Leah Benamy,
Temple Beth David, Cheshire

Bitterness incarnate, this vegetable, often raw horseradish root, is meant to be difficult to eat. The sharp, almost painful bite reminds us viscerally of our bitter experience as slaves. It may bring tears to your eyes as well, which is another reminder.

BEET
Rabbi Barbara Paris,
Hillel Advisor, Southern CT State University

As the Israelites were leaving Egypt they were instructed to put the blood of the ram on their lintels so that the Angel of Death would pass them by. My teacher Jill Hammer added a beet to the Seder plate for those that were vegetarians and also who might not have the means to sacrifice a ram.

ZEROAH
Rabbi Josh Pernick,
JCRC/Rabbi in Residence

The “zeroah”, or shankbone, functions as a stand-in for the Korban Pesach, the Paschal offering, which served as the core element of the Passover experience when the Temple stood. We no longer bring the Korban Pesach but we bring a stand-in, a bone, and put it on the plate. We call the shankbone a “zeroa”, literally a forearm, a reminder of the “zeroa netuyah”, the strong arm, with which God brought us out of Egypt.

CHAZERET
Rabbi Josh Pernick

There are two bitter herbs on the seder plate: The first, maror, is difficult to eat. But the second, “chazeret”, is not eaten at all. Some of our experiences as slaves were so horrific as to be entirely indigestible. This item reminds us of the decree against the male sons, a pill so bitter that Moses’ mother could not accept it, the first crack in the armor of the authoritarian rule of Pharaoh.

CHAROSET
Rabbi Alvin Wainhouse,
Congregation Or Shalom, Orange

We are all familiar with the traditional explanation of charoset, as meant to “recall the mortar/mud we used to make bricks”. But I’ve always felt myself drawn to another explanation—namely, a fulfillment of the verse, “The path of Torah is a path of pleasantness.” That is, Yiddishkeit must never be a bitter pill; religion’s purpose in general, and Judaism’s purpose specifically is to sweeten life!

KIDDUSH/WINE
Rabbi Josh Pernick

The four cups of wine each function as a time portal, transporting us to a different moment in our people’s story. The first cup teleports us to our earliest days in Egypt; with the second cup, we move forward to our final meal in Egypt as slaves. With the third cup we fast forward to the edge of the Sea of Reeds, awaiting our freedom, and with the Fourth to Sinai and our preparation to enter into an eternal covenant with God.

AFIKOMEN
Rabbi Brian Immerman,
Congregation Mishkan Israel, Hamden

The Afikomen is the broken piece of middle matzah, hidden and joyfully discovered for ransom by the children before continuing with the seder. Even through joy, we are reminded that uncovering brokenness in our own lives and world requires work to seek and discover what we cannot readily see. Only then can we everyone experience full redemption.

BEITZAH
Rabbi Josh Pernick

The “beitzah”, or egg, reminds us of the additional offering, the “korban chagigah”, or festival offering, that was brought in the days of the Temple on Passover. The roasted egg reminds us of the fulfillment of God’s promise to the Jewish people: “I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession, I the LORD.” (Exodus 6:8)



Passover Greetings

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Happy Passover

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JCC & Chapel Haven share art

The Hoos Family Art Gallery of the JCC of Greater New Haven has partnered with Chapel Haven Schleifer Center (CHSC) to present "Awareness: Life As We See It Through a Neurodiverse Lens," an art show honoring February as Disabilities Awareness Month.

Original works of art by CHSC artists — including John Orr, Chris Murray, Zachary Spielman and David Hogin — will be on exhibit at the JCC at 360 Amity Road in Woodbridge, through March 5. The exhibit will also feature many collaborative pieces done by participants in Chapel Haven's Tina's Out to Art classes. "I have always believed that we are all artists within, says CHSC Art Director Tina Minchetti. "Given the tools, support, inspiration and comfortable environment, most will flourish and happily create. I remind my students that it is not the product but the process, the journey not the destination."



Author Dara Horn to discuss 'People Love Dead Jews' in New Haven



On Wednesday evening, March 29, award-winning novelist, essayist and author Dara Horn will visit New Haven to discuss her recent best-selling book, *People Love Dead Jews*. Horn will also talk about the nefarious nature of antisemitism and why she decided to dive into this form of hate after years spent intentionally avoiding centering it in her work. Dr. Horn will join the Yale community for a series of sessions throughout the day, culminating in a public lecture open to the entire New Haven community.

Dara Horn's talk is on March 29, 7–9 p.m., at Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall, Room 114, 1 Prospect St. in New Haven. The talk is sponsored by AEN, Office of DEI at Yale School of Medicine, The Buckley Program, JCRC of Greater New Haven, Slifka Center.

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Foundation News

Scholarship opportunities from the Jewish Foundation

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS:

All scholarships are for area students from Jewish households. All applications must be completed online by May 15. All applications are confidential and anonymously reviewed. This is a competitive process and unfortunately not all applicants will receive awards. Go to jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships for more info on Israel Experience and College Scholarships.

• Mary Taylor Friedler Memorial Scholarship Fund

This scholarship is not needs based and requires an essay concerning what peace, justice and righteousness mean to you and your Judaism. Awards range from \$500–\$1000. Applicant must reside in Greater New Haven and be entering their freshman year of college. Awards are based on the strength of the application.

• **Stuart J. Drell Scholarship Fund** Awards are \$1,500 and the applicant must reside in CT and may be entering college or a current college student. Awards are based on the strength of the application and financial need.

• Emma Kohn Podoloff Scholarship Fund of the National Council of Jewish Women's Greater New Haven Section

The average award is \$1,500 and applicants must reside in Greater New Haven and be entering their freshman year of college. The application includes an essay and 3 recommendations. Awards are based on the strength of the application and financial need.

ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS:

The Jewish Foundation Israel Experience Scholarship Program enables local Jewish students ages 14–20 the opportunity to participate in an Israel experience to develop and enrich their Jewish education and reinforce their Jewish identity.

The Jewish Foundation provides scholarships for both short-term (minimum of 3 week program) and long-term organized Israel educational programs. For summer programs the deadline is April 7, 2023. For the 2023–24 gap or academic year programs, applications are due by June 9, 2023. Go to

jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships for more information, a list of qualifying programs, and requirements.

Current funds providing ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS:

- **Bloch Family Fund for Israel Travel by Congregation Or Shalom Youth**
- **Esther Gold Milikowsky-Copelon Fund in memory of Matthew Milikowsky for Teen Travel to Israel**
- **Marvin S. Pisetsky Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund**
- **Arthur Spiegel Israel Scholarship Fund**
- **Lawrence & Florence Winer Israel Scholarship Fund**
- **The Earl and Muriel Banquer Israel Endowment Fund**
- **Henry & Helene Kasha Fund for the Teaching of the Hebrew Language**

ONE HAPPY CAMPER:

For overnight Jewish summer camps, the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven offers needs-blind incentive grants for first-time campers as well as needs-based scholarships for first-time and returning campers.

Campers must reside in the Greater New Haven catchment area and must be attending an overnight camp in North America. For more information go to jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships/one-happy-camper,

GRANTS:

Go to jewishnewhaven.org/grants for all grant information and applications.

Security Grants Initiative from the Arthur Eder Family Fund, in memory of Arthur & Yvette Eder

Since 2020 \$787,000 in security grants have been awarded in to Congregation B'nai Jacob, Congregation BEKI, Congregation Or Shalom, Chabad of the Shoreline, Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, the Israeli Jewish Center, Temple Emanuel, Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, Congregation Mishkan Israel, Westville Synagogue, Beth Israel (Wallingford), Temple Beth David, Temple Beth Sholom, Temple Beth Tikvah, Ezra Academy, Camp Laurelwood, Camp Gan Israel, Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy, the JCC, and more—2023 applications are now being accepted on a rolling basis until August 3, 2023.



Grants for the Jewish Elderly Grants to benefit new and innovative programs and projects for Jewish elderly residing in greater New Haven. In 2022, \$169,000 in grants were awarded to Chabad of the Shoreline, Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven, and the Towers at Tower Lane. 2023 applications are due April 30, 2023.

JEWISHCAMP one happy camper JEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Summertime at Jewish overnight camp is jam-packed with fun. At camp, anything is possible! Kids have new experiences—ropes courses, sailing, Israeli dancing. There's something special about camp. Kids can be their authentic selves. Kids can try new things. Kids can learn about themselves and others in a way that doesn't exist in the classroom. Camp is a place where kids can forge their own Jewish identity. Camp is magic!

UP TO \$1,000 NEED-BLIND INCENTIVE GRANT FOR OVERNIGHT JEWISH CAMP.

The Jewish Foundation, in partnership with the One Happy Camper program of the Foundation for Jewish Camp and an anonymous donor, is thrilled to offer need-blind grants of \$375-\$1,000 for first-time campers from Greater New Haven to attend any one of 195 traditional and specialty Jewish overnight camps nationwide.

NEED-BASED AID FOR OVERNIGHT JEWISH CAMP.

The Jewish Foundation, in partnership with an anonymous donor, is thrilled to offer need-based financial assistance for campers from Greater New Haven to attend Jewish overnight camps nationwide.

Did you know that New Haven has its own overnight Jewish Camp? Camp Laurelwood is one of the leading Jewish overnight camps in Connecticut! Learn more at camplaurelwood.org

To learn more or apply, please visit: jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships/one-happy-camper

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LOCAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS AND SYNAGOGUES:

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LOCAL SECULAR:

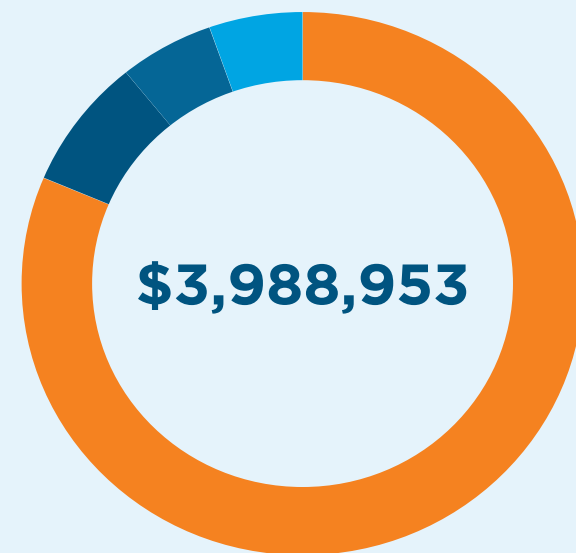
\$216,721

NONLOCAL SECULAR:

\$311,939

NONLOCAL JEWISH:

\$215,096



2022 Financial Summary



Total Foundation Assets	\$71.9 million
Contributions <i>(in gifts received)</i>	\$2,930,773
Charitable Distributions/Grants	\$3,958,953

82% was distributed to local Jewish organizations and synagogues
\$3,245,196

Top 5 Distributions

PACE Distributions to Federation Annual Campaign	\$519,247
Security Grants	\$287,400
Jewish Elderly Grants	\$219,000
Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven - Community Impact	\$174,750
Scholarships for Jewish Overnight Camps	\$29,700



Foundation News

Jewish Foundation kicks off 'Create a Jewish Legacy' initiative

This past November, the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven held a kickoff meeting and information session to announce its second Create a Jewish Legacy initiative in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's LIFE & LEGACY® program. A strong start to the program, the kickoff included an enlightening and inspiring presentation from Arlene D. Schiff, Senior Advisor of LIFE & LEGACY and Greater New Haven's community consultant. The kickoff was a great success. Attended on Zoom by nearly 60 representatives of Jewish organizations in Greater New Haven, the meeting resulted in the commitment of 14 synagogues and agencies to the initiative—a diverse and passionate cohort that is committed to the Jewish future of Greater New Haven. *(Full list of participating organizations below.)*

Launched nationally by the Grinspoon Foundation in 2012, LIFE & LEGACY provides training, support, and monetary incentives to help Jewish organizations secure their individual financial futures by spearheading their own endowment and bequest drives. Greater New Haven was one of the very first communities selected to participate in this important program in 2012, and

between 2013 and 2016 the Jewish Foundation distributed over \$300,000 in incentive grants to participating local Jewish organizations and synagogues and secured legacy commitments from over 375 households, totaling an estimated \$8.1 million.

The Jewish Foundation's second 4-year Create a Jewish Legacy initiative aims to steward, sustain, and build on all that we have already accomplished together as well as to further assist our organizations in integrating legacy giving into their culture. To achieve this mission, the Jewish Foundation will distribute \$170,000 in incentive grants over the next 4 years, host professional training sessions in partnership with the Grinspoon Foundation, and provide consulting, marketing, and publicity resources to participating organizations.

The program officially launched on January 1, 2023, and the Legacy Teams from each agency are currently drafting Legacy Action Plans using materials and strategies from their first training workshop. Additional workshops in this first year will include trainings on holding successful legacy conversations, marketing a legacy campaign, and stewarding donors.



Susan Voigt (left) with her son, daughter-in-law, and 2 of her 7 grandchildren

Even in just the past few months, this work has already made a big impact. Legacy Team member Susan Voigt recently created a legacy for her synagogue, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel in New Haven. Said Susan, "I am excited to leave a two-fold legacy. My greatest legacy is having 3 children and now 7 grandchildren. As the daughter of Holocaust survivors, I can say, 'We live on! We thrive!' My second legacy is to my shul, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel. I created a legacy for BEKI in my estate plans so that it can continue to be a place for families to learn and grow."

Our regional security initiative: Year one

By Michael Shanbrom
Regional Security Advisor, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

For just over a year, I have had the honor of serving as the first Jewish community Regional Security Advisor for South & Western Connecticut.

Across America, we are witnessing alarming increases in mass attacks and crimes targeting our Jewish communities. The threats facing us are very real, and Jewish communities in southern and western Connecticut are not immune, but there is much we can do to help protect each other. That's why it is imperative that we continue to work together to identify threats, make our Jewish community facilities harder to target, and prepare for and train to survive a potential active threat.

In the Regional Security Advisor role, I administer a security program that provides consultations, organizational threat assessments, training and



drills, and incident management to our Jewish community organizations, including schools, daycare centers, synagogues, and camps. I serve as a conduit between area Jewish community organizations, law enforcement, and the Secure Community Network's 24-hour National Jewish Security Operations Command Center.

To reduce the risk of violence and terrorism to our communities, I have been working closely with local law enforcement, as well as federal and state partners, to ensure that we are collaborating and sharing threat information.

During the first full year of the regional security program, I conducted 43 formal facility security assessments and trained approximately 3,000 people in core security topics including Situational



Michael Shanbrom

Awareness, Countering Active Threats, Stop the Bleed®, and Camp Security. I provided guidance to approximately 30 community agencies regarding the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, helping them receive nearly \$3 million in federal grants to improve security infrastructure.

I have formed and convened regional security working groups comprised of community members who meet to discuss security topics and share concerns and best practices. In addition, we have built a one-stop online Jewish

community security resource website at securejewishct.org.

It continues to be my pleasure to serve as the region's first Jewish community Regional Security Advisor, and I look forward to working with each of you to make our community as safe and secure as it can be. I may be reached at mshanbrom@securecommunitynetwork.org.



We all strive to leave the world a better place through our children, our good deeds, our generosity

Create a Jewish Legacy is a program sponsored and presented by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven and is a collaborative effort of our area agencies and synagogues to secure the future of the New Haven Jewish community.

Mazel tov to our participating synagogues and agencies!

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven (PACE)
Temple Beth Tikvah
Congregation Mishkan Israel
Temple Beth David
Temple Emanuel

Congregation Beth Shalom
Rodfe Zedek
Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
Jewish Family Service
Camp Laurelwood
Towers at Tower Lane

Ezra Academy
UConn Hillel
Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater New Haven
New Haven Mikveh Society



Be forever remembered by our community for the legacy you leave.

Make YOUR legacy a brighter Jewish tomorrow.

For more information, contact the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven
Lisa Stanger, Executive Director | (203) 387-2424, ext. 382 | lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org
Tamara Schechter, Create a Jewish Legacy Manager | (203) 387-2424, ext. 325 | tschechter@jewishnewhaven.org



Security for our JCC



Each month nearly 20,000 visitors enter the JCC's Beckerman/Lender Community Building to enjoy its facilities, attend a program or meeting and meet friends. Striking a balance between a friendly, relaxed atmosphere and regulating who comes and goes is an important task of JCC staff. "We want our community to feel relaxed and safe when they visit", said Scott Cohen the JCC Executive Director. In order to help create the safe but friendly atmosphere, a new glass security wall was installed this fall. The project which was undertaken by the Facility and Security committee under the leadership of chair Evan Wyner was designed by committee member and Architect Peggy Rubens-Duhl of Fresh Architect and installed by Derby Glass Inc. The committee also benefitted from the assistance of Mike Shanbrom, the Regional Security Advisor for Greater New Haven.

The security wall and new welcome desk are constructed of intruder resistant glass and have integrated card scanners to allow access to JCC members. Visitors can easily interact with the JCC's Welcome Desk staff to gain entry to the building.

The security wall was made possible with a grant in memory of Arthur and Yvette Eder from the Arthur Eder Family Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. Support for JCC security improvements also comes from the State of Connecticut. Recently the JCC was the recipient of a Federal Non-profit Security Grant which will be used to further security initiatives in the facility.

JFS
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of Greater New Haven
Spring **CELEBRATION**
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www.jfsnh.org

IN OUR SYNAGOGUES



Congregation Mishkan Israel

785 Ridge Road, Hamden | For information: (203) 288-3877 | cmihamden.org

FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, February 10, 6 p.m. ; Pre-Oneg, 5:30 p.m.
 Friday, March 10, 6 p.m. ; Pre-Oneg, 5:30 p.m.
 Celebrate Shabbat with us at a special Family service with Rabbi Immerman and Cantor Giglio. Our enthusiastic Junior Choir will also be joining us with songs and prayers.

CONGREGATION MISHKAN ISRAEL TOT SHABBAT

Saturday, February 18, 10:30 a.m.
 Saturday, March 18, 10:30 a.m.
 Special Tot Shabbat service, focusing focuses on music and movement through fun songs and prayers. Parents and Tots up to age five dance, sing, and have special moments together.

CONGREGATION MISHKAN ISRAEL CELEBRATES PURIM

Sunday, March 5, 5 p.m.
 Celebrate with CMI at our Harry Potter Purim Service! The spiel will be led by congregant Julie Chevan, directing a cast of friends who promise to help Esther triumph over the evil Haman. Rabbi Immerman and Cantor Giglio will bring you Megillah, music, madness, fun and magic! There will be a Purim Parade, so dress up as your favorite Purim/Harry Potter character!



Congregation Or Shalom

205 Old Grassy Hill Road, Orange | (203) 799-2341 | orshalomct.org

“COFFEE & ...LEARN” Wednesday mornings with Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus. Gather together to explore the ancient texts of our tradition and the light they shed on the issues of our own day.

May be attended either in person or via zoom; for one session or the entire series. RSVP to save your place.

MAH JONG IS BACK! Thursdays, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

All levels of players, including beginners.
 If you have a 2022 Mah Jong card, please bring it with you. RSVP to save your place.

MONTHLY ZOOM BOOK CLUB Thursday, March 16, 7 p.m. led by Linda Phillips. **MARCH: Triangle** by Katharine Weber. *By the time she dies at age 106, Esther Gottesfeld, the last survivor of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire — New York’s most violent disaster — has told the story of that day many times. But her own role remains mysterious: How did she survive? Are the gaps in her story just common mistakes, or has she concealed a secret over the years? As her granddaughter seeks the real story in the present day, a zealous feminist historian bears down on her with her own set of conclusions, and Esther’s voice vies with theirs to reveal the full meaning of the tragedy.*

The book for the April 20, book discussion has not been chosen yet. Check the synagogue website for updates.



Congregation B'nai Jacob

75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge | (203) 389-2111 | bnaijacob.org

FAMILY PURIM CARNIVAL Sunday Morning, March 5, 10 a.m. Join us for an engaging, fun-filled morning to celebrate the festive holiday of Purim.

A child-friendly service and Megillah reading, followed by a carnival with games, crafts, refreshments, and lots and lots of hammentashen.

MEGILLAH READING AND SHPIEL Monday Evening, March 6, 7 p.m. We will start with a full reading of the Megillah (The Book of Esther), and finish with an adult shpiel that is sure to delight.

DRESS IN COSTUME FOR BOTH EVENTS!

KOSHER WINE TASTING Thursday Evening, March 23, 7 p.m. Learn about, taste and purchase Kosher wine from Israel in time for Passover.

INTEGRATING JEWISH WISDOM AND ECOLOGICAL THINKING TO HEAL A FRACTURED WORLD Sunday Morning, March 26, 10 a.m. Guest Speaker, Rabbi Natan Margolit. A discussion of his recent book, *The Pearl and the Flame*, which brings a new integration of ecological thinking and core Jewish concepts. Copies for signing will be available.

IN OUR SYNAGOGUES

Beth Israel Synagogue hosts 3-week program for interfaith couples

This past January, Rabbi Alpert of Beth Israel Synagogue, along with Dr. Hesch Sommer, Rabbi Emeritus Temple Beth Tikvah in Madison, facilitated a three week program on interfaith relations for interfaith couples in the greater Wallingford area.

The purpose of the series was to explore the challenges faced by both partners when they have decided to make Judaism a central part of their and their children’s lives. Topics covered were “Nourishing our spiritual selves” (understanding each other’s values and priorities), “Things we hold on to” (honoring different habits and traditions), and “Things we pass on” (engaging the non-Jewish spouse in their children’s upbringing).

RABBI ALPERT EXPLAINED WHY THIS PROGRAM WAS AN IMPORTANT ONE:

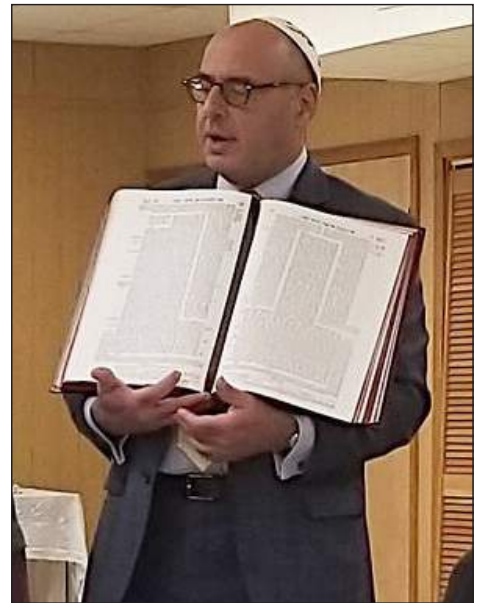
Over the last many years, I have come

to look at interfaith relations through a different lens. Long held by Jews to be the culmination of the process of assimilation, I no longer see these relations as a grave threat to Jewish survival. The graver threat, in my opinion, is not assimilation into another religion, but rather the loss of any religious connection at all. Every recent study of religious trends in the United States (and throughout most of the Western world, for that matter) shows that the fastest growing religious affiliation—especially among young people—is none at all.

While assuredly a threat, I believe this trend is also an opportunity. While younger people often profess an indifference to “organized religion” (whatever that term might mean), I believe that the impulse to seek a transcendent meaning to one’s life is

an indestructible part of the human spirit. And in the search for meaning to one’s life, Judaism is—in my opinion—the greatest of all faiths.

Above any other goal towards which religion points a person, Judaism stresses that our lives are sacred undertakings and thus, filled with significance and meaning. This I think is the message that people both want and need to hear—even those who profess themselves to be irreligious. And Judaism delivers this message in a system of thought and belief that stresses rationality and the human desire to question. For this reason, I believe that bringing interfaith couples into the ambit of Judaism is not only good for the Jewish member and children, it is good for the non-Jewish member as well. I have seen this happen time and time again in our own



Rabbi Alpert

synagogue. So many non-Jewish members play significant roles in all aspects our synagogue’s life. And many of them find real spiritual meaning in their family’s Jewish connection. So I find myself very optimistic about what outreach to interfaith couples can mean for our community.

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FEATURED AUTHORS	1	2	3	4	5	6
	 DAVID DE JONG AUTHOR David DeJong	 ROBERT ROTENBERG AUTHOR Robert Rotenberg	 GWEN STRAUSS AUTHOR Gwen Strauss	 FARIS CASSELL AUTHOR Faris Cassell	 CRAIG & JEFFREY WEISS AUTHORS Craig & Jeffrey Weiss	 ARI MITTLEMAN AUTHOR Ari Mittleman
	Nazi Billionaires Thursday, March 23 7 PM PRE-RECORDED VIDEO	The Cigar Factory of Isay Rottenberg Tuesday, March 28 7 PM VIA ZOOM	The Nine Sunday, April 16 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM	The Unanswered Letter Thursday, April 27 7 PM VIA ZOOM	Fighting Back Sunday, May 1 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM	Paths of the Righteous Tuesday, May 16 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM

FEATURED FILMS

 1	 2	 3	 4
FILM Forbidden Films Year: 2014 Origin: Germany Runtime: 94 mins. Color & B&W Language: German Subtitles: English	FILM The Invisibles Film by Claus Raffe Germany, 2017 Language: German Genre: Drama 110 mins.	FILM The Light of Hope Directed by Silvia Quer Spain 2018 Drama 96 min. Spanish, Catalan, French (English subtitles)	FILM The Jews and the Blues Written & Directed by Drew Stone and Evan B. Stone USA 2022 Documentary English 67 Min.
Monday, Mar. 27 through Sunday, April 2 WATCH ONLINE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE!	Monday, April 3 through Sunday, April 9 WATCH ONLINE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE!	Monday, Apr. 17 through Sunday, Apr. 23 WATCH ONLINE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE!	Monday, May 1 through Sunday, May 7 WATCH ONLINE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE!

ENJOY OUR FILMS, AUTHORS OR THE WHOLE SERIES! jccnh.org/beckerman-cultural-arts-series

Update on strategic plan (Continued from page 5)

Israel and Overseas

A top initiative for the community was to offer an intensive learning and sightseeing trip to Israel. In collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, over 150 people will participate on an Israel adventure in March 2023. This opportunity is a direct result of the strategic plan and request to share about the impact of the work taking place locally to support Jews around the world. The trip also includes an optional extension to experience Jewish Morocco.

Additionally, our local Jewish community was very supportive and engaged with the Ukraine Relief efforts. Our local emergency campaign raised \$175,000. Dr. Steven Fleischman and Amy Holtz represented the New Haven community on a 48 hour fly-in to the Ukrainian/Poland boarder with over 400 pounds of medical supplies.

Annual Fundraising

The Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign uses the power of the collective to help Jews in need and to build a vibrant community in Greater New Haven, Israel and around the world. Through the generosity of donors, year-in and year-out, the Annual Campaign raises over \$2.4 million to allocate to our agencies and programs. The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven continues to ensure quality education for children and adults, provides engaging experiences throughout the year for families, as well as for seniors and the home-bound elderly.

Women's Philanthropy, Shalom Baby, Jewish Community Relations Council, and PJ Library are just a few of the ways to connect and engage with the Jewish Federation.

The Federation annual campaign allocates funds to more than 30 different agencies, organizations, and programs including (in alphabetical order):

American Join Distribution Committee (JDC)	Jewish Family Services
Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy	Jewish Federations of North America
Birthright	Jewish Historical Society
BBYO	JCPA (Jewish Council for Public Affairs)
Camp Laurelwood	JFACT (Jewish Federation Association of CT)
Eruv Society	New England Jewish Academy
Ethiopian Aliyah	New Haven Mikvah
Ezra Academy	Onward Israel
Hebrew Burial & Free Loan Association	SNEC (Southern New England Consortium) of Jewish Federations
Hillels @ UCONN, Southern CT State University, Quinnipiac University and Slifka Center at Yale	Southern CT Hebrew Academy
Holocaust Ground Care	Synagogue Initiatives
Jewish Agency for Israel	The Towers
Jewish Cemetery Association	World Ort
Jewish Community Center	Yeshiva Beis Dovid Shlomo

Endowment Fundraising

In addition to providing for the current needs, the future remains a key priority. New Haven is fortunate to be a part of a National Life and Legacy initiative to ensure a healthy future. The Jewish Foundation and the Jewish Federation together are working tirelessly to meet the Beckerman Family PACE Challenge. Established in partnership with the Beckerman Family Foundation, the \$2 million Beckerman Family PACE Challenge is a 1:1 match intended to secure the future of the Greater New Haven Jewish community through newly established and increased Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) funds.

A PACE Fund is a permanent endowment fund for the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven established in your name to perpetuate your annual commitment to the Federation's Annual Campaign. As an endowment fund, principal is not touched and the fund is invested with the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. The interest earned from the fund is distributed to the Federation's Annual Campaign will be made in perpetuity in your name.

Anyone can start an endowment fund, no matter your financial situation. The minimum amount required to start a fund is \$10,000, but it doesn't need to be funded up-front. An endowment can be funded over time through periodic donations (a great way to mark a milestone or special occasion!) or with a single gift. Donations can be made in the form of cash, stock and/or planned gifts such as a bequest in your will, an IRA distribution or life insurance designation.

For more information and details about establishing a fund, contact Lisa Stanger, Executive Director of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven at Istanger@jewishnewhaven.org or Amy Holtz, Interim Chief Executive Director / Chief Development Officer at aholtz@jewishnewhaven.org.



In summary, the Jewish community of Greater New Haven is thriving and expanding. There is so much that can be experienced locally, in every aspect from cradle to grave.

The Jewish Federation, as the community convener, is proud of the work taking place and invites everyone to engage. The involvement and commitment of many has increased and we look forward to growing and continuing to be a vibrant community.

For more information or any questions regarding the Jewish Community Study, please contact Robyn Teplitzky, Community Consultant at rteplitzky@jewishnewhaven.org

Will your family join the Challenge to help us meet our \$2 million goal?

Established in partnership with the Beckerman Family Foundation, the \$2 million Beckerman Family PACE Challenge is a 1:1 match intended to secure the future of the Greater New Haven Jewish community through newly established and increased Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) funds: \$1 million to be comprised of new PACE funds, and the other million dollars to be from additions to existing PACE funds.



What is PACE?

A Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) Fund is a permanent endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven established in your name to perpetuate your annual commitment to the Federation's Annual Campaign. As an endowment fund, principal is not touched and the fund is invested with the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. Each year, the interest earned from the fund is distributed to the Federation's Annual Campaign. The annual distribution will be made in perpetuity in your name.

DID YOU KNOW: A Women's Philanthropy gift can also be endowed as a special type of PACE fund called a LOJE (or Lion of Judah Endowment)!

How Does It Work?

Anyone can start an endowment fund, no matter your financial situation. The minimum amount required to start a fund is \$10,000, but it doesn't need to be fully funded up-front. An endowment can be funded over time through periodic donations (a great way to mark a milestone or special occasion!) or with a single gift. Donations can be made in the form of cash, stock and/or planned gifts such as a bequest in your will or an IRA or life insurance designation.

The money contributed is used to establish a Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment Fund in your name. The fund is invested in Federation's Endowment Foundation for long term growth. Each year, a distribution is made from your PACE Fund to Federation to perpetuate your annual support.

Why Should I Open a PACE Fund?

REASON #1: PACE Funds Account for a Sizeable (and Growing!) Portion of Federation's Annual Campaign

When David and Ruthann Beckerman first helped launch PACE in the Greater New Haven community back in 1999, PACE fund disbursements accounted for just under \$20,000 towards a \$3.17 million annual campaign, or a little more than 0.6% of all donations to that year's campaign. Last year, PACE funds paid out \$517,000 into a \$2.39 million campaign, or nearly 22% of all monies raised. And if you start a PACE fund today, we can ensure that number continues to grow to provide a strong foundation for our community's future.

REASON #2: Starting a PACE Fund is a Win-Win Scenario!

When you open a PACE fund at the Jewish Foundation, not only does it provide benefits to the Jewish community for decades to come—it also benefits you! Here are some of the ways:

RECOGNITION. You are recognized as a PACE donor when you announce your commitment to make this enduring gift.



Our generous PACE donors, the Beckerman's.

TAX BENEFITS. You may receive estate and/or income tax benefits depending on your specific situation and the funding method chosen.

IMPACT. Your gift will generate future income to support Federation.

VALUES. This gift makes a statement to your children and grandchildren about your Jewish values and commitment to Jewish life and continuity.

How do I establish a planned or legacy gift?

There are a variety of vehicles you can use, such as securities, retirement plan assets, real estate, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts and gifts of life insurance. Here are just some of the options available to you:

- Donate cash or securities during your lifetime.
- Leave a gift to Federation in your Will.
- Gift a new or existing life insurance policy by naming "Federation" as owner and beneficiary of the policy.
- Complete a "Beneficiary Designation Form" with your IRA administrator which lists Federation as a beneficiary.
- Include Federation as a charitable beneficiary of your Donor Advised Fund after your lifetime.

NOTE: It's important to consult with your financial advisor before making any planned or legacy gifts. To learn more about PACE and the Beckerman PACE Challenge, please contact Lisa Stanger at (203) 387-2424 x382, Istanger@jewishnewhaven.org, or Amy Holtz at (203) 387-2424 x254, aholtz@jewishnewhaven.org.

BECKERMAN FAMILY PACE CHALLENGE

Current Donors to the Challenge
(as of 2/16/23)



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Richard Amerling**
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Stephen Saltzman**
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Jimmy Shure**
Susan and Doug Skalka*
Mark and Judy Sklarz**
Jeffrey & Robyn Teplitzky*
Barry and Hyla Vine**

*= new fund established
**= added funds to existing PACE/LOJE



Spring & Passover: A great time to get outside...and read!

By **Yelena Gerovich** New American Acculturation Program Coordinator

Spring is one of the happiest times of the year. Sunny days and Purim celebrations make this time of year truly enjoyable for everyone. We don't have to feel guilty about eating sweets and tasty Hamantaschen, and drinking an extra glass of wine.

Religion was prohibited in the communist Soviet Union, and it was very hard to be openly Jewish. A Jew risked losing his job, and could even get arrested for observing his holidays and traditions. However, in spite of the difficult circumstances, Jews secretly celebrated Purim, baked Hamantaschen and delivered it to relatives and friends.

Here in the US, we can openly celebrate Purim. You can take Hamantaschen to your favorite place and enjoy eating it openly anywhere, including public places; and you can read your favorite books and magazines at the same time.

One magazine I especially like to read is *Time* magazine—an authoritative and informative guide to what is happening today in current affairs, science and entertainment, politics, business, and health. Launched 100 years ago two Yale University graduates — Brion Hayden and Henry Luce — the magazine's first issue was published on March 3, 1923. It was the first weekly news magazine in the US, as well as the first to sort news into categories - national affairs, foreign affairs, the arts. Hadden and Luce originally called the magazine Facts, to emphasize the straight to the point publication that they were striving for. They later adopted the title *Time*, and then the slogan “Take Time—It’s Brief”.

Time has consistently embodied its own style of writing and is known for its signature red border on the cover of the magazine. This border was changed to black for the issue printed just after the September 11, 2001, to reflect a nation in mourning.

Jewish people like to read. At times like Passover, books are a bridge between the Jewish present and past, linking modern Jews with the Israelites who escaped Egypt. At other times, books provide inspiration for the future, as in Theodor Herzl's The Jewish State, a political pamphlet that prophesied the creation of the state of Israel.

All winter we have been stuck inside, eating our meals and reading. Now, with spring upon us, we can enjoy the warmer weather by heading outside to our backyards, opening our verandas, or going to the park to enjoy some quality time, interesting reading and good food.

The internet boom has affected nearly all publications since newspaper and magazine companies have had to adapt to demands for online services. Still, data from YouGov Profiles reveals that just under half of Americans (47%) and the majority of Britons (58%) say they get more enjoyment from reading magazines in print than online. This sentiment grows with age. More than two-thirds of British consumers (70%) and two-fifths of American consumers (61%) aged above 55 say they prefer reading magazines in print.

Online services are amazing. It is up to us to decide what we want to read. Passover is coming, we can read printed Haggadah's at home, or go online and create our own Haggadahs with pictures, colors, translations in different languages, etc. You can print it for free. You can also invite friends or seder guests to log in and participate in the Haggadah-making. When you're done, you can print out your Haggadah or download to your guests' mobile devices.

Enjoy spring and the holidays!

The New American Acculturation Program provides educational classes, programs and holiday celebrations. For more information, including sponsorships of specific programs, please contact Yelena Gerovich at (203) 387-2424 x321, or email ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org.



WELCOME TO AMERICA

Весна и Пасха: прекрасное время, чтобы выйти на улицу... и почитать!

Для большинства людей весна – лучшее время года. Солнечные дни и празднование Пурима делают это время по-настоящему приятным для всех. Нам не нужно испытывать чувство вины за то, что мы съедаем больше сладостей и вкусных хоменташен, выпиваем лишний бокал вина.

В коммунистическом Советском Союзе религия была запрещена, открыто быть евреем было очень трудно. Евреи рисковали потерять работу и даже быть арестованными за соблюдение праздников и традиций. Однако, несмотря на тяжелые обстоятельства, они тайно праздновали Пурим, пеки хоменташен и разносили его по родственникам и друзьям.

Здесь, в США, мы можем открыто праздновать Пурим. Вы можете взять хоменташен в любое место которое вам нравится, кушать и читать свои любимые книги и журналы.

Один из журналов, который мне нравится читать, — это журнал Time — авторитетный источник информации о том что происходит сегодня в мире, науке, искусстве, политике, бизнесе и здравоохранении. Основанный 100 лет назад двумя выпускниками Йельского университета — Брайаном Хайденом и Генри Люсом — первый номер журнала

вышел 3 марта 1923 года. Это был первый еженедельный журнал новостей в США, а также первый, в котором новости сортировались по категориям — внутренние дела, иностранные дела, искусство. Хадден и Люс первоначально назвали журнал «Факты», чтобы подчеркнуть правдивость публикации, к которой они стремились. Позже они приняли название «Время», а затем лозунг: "Выбирай Time — он краток". Каждый номер состоял из множества коротких статей обо всех новостях за неделю.

Time последовательно воплощает собственный стиль письма и известен своей фирменной красной рамкой на обложке журнала. Эта рамка была изменена на черную для выпуска, напечатанного сразу после 11 сентября 2001 г., когда в стране был траур.

Евреи любят читать. Когда мы празднуем Пасху, книги являются мостом между настоящим и прошлым, связывая современных евреев с израильтянами, бежавшими из Египта. В других случаях книги вдохновляют на будущее, как, например, в политическом памфлете Теодора Герцля «Еврейское государство», предсказывающем создание государства Израиль.

Всю зиму мы ели и читали в помещениях. Теперь, когда наступила весна, мы можем наслаждаться более теплой погодой, выйти на улицу, открыть веранды или отправиться в парк, чтобы приятно провести время, почитать и вкусно поесть.

Интернет-бум затронул почти все издания, поскольку газетным и журнальным компаниям пришлось приспосабливаться к спросу на онлайн-услуги. Тем не менее, данные YouGov Profiles показывают, что чуть менее половины американцев (47%) и большинство британцев (58%) говорят, что получают больше удовольствия от чтения печатных журналов, чем онлайн. Это предпочтение растет с возрастом. Более двух третей британских потребителей (70%) и две пятых американских потребителей (61%) в возрасте старше 55 лет говорят, что предпочитают читать печатные журналы.

Онлайн-сервисы прекрасны. Нам решать, что и как мы хотим читать. Приближается Пасха, мы можем читать печатную Агаду дома или пойти в Интернет и создать свою собственную Агаду с картинками, переводами на разные языки и т. д. Вы можете распечатать свою Агаду бесплатно. Вы также можете пригласить друзей и своих гостей, приглашенных на сеидер, присоединиться онлайн и принять участие в составлении Агады. Когда вы закончите, вы можете распечатать свою Агаду или загрузить ее на мобильные устройства ваших гостей.

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*Tributes listed are up to Feb. 3, 2023

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In honor of Nancy Cohen for her birthday, to Women's Philanthropy's Dignity Grows Program

*Robyn & Jeffrey Teplitzky
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In honor of Ashley Blume, wishing a speedy and complete recovery, to Women's Philanthropy Dignity Grows program

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In honor of Jeanette Kuvin Oren's USPS Hanukkah stamp, to Women's Philanthropy Dignity Grows program

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In memory of Anatoliy Markus, father of Olga Markus

*Judy Alperin
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Marina Milgram & Sasha Medovnikov*

In honor of Jeffrey & Betsy Hoos for a Happy Hanukkah

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In memory of Mickey Glassman, daughter of Harriet Shapiro, to Women's Philanthropy Dignity Grows program

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Marcy Thomaswick joins Beth Israel as educational director

The 126 year-old Beth Israel Synagogue in Wallingford entered a new era in 2022 with the addition of educational director Marcy Thomaswick.

A professional educator in both secular and religious subjects (K-12) for more than 25 years, Marcy has taught Judaic studies at Ezra Academy in Woodbridge, Kol Ami in Cheshire, Makom Hebrew High School of Greater New Haven and the JCC of Greater New Haven.

She holds a BA in English and an MA in Education from Southern Connecticut State University, an additional Masters in Teacher Leadership from Brandeis University, and a certificate in the Advanced Alternative Preparation Program for Remedial Reading and Language Arts from Albertus Magnus.

"[Marcy] brings experience, energy, intelligence, creativity, curiosity, a love of learning and a pure love of

children to our community and our kids every week," says Phyllis Gordon, Beth Israel's president.

Marcy, who teaches students from all grades on Sunday (with Rabbi Alpert teaching older students on Tuesdays), has expertise in the pedagogy and science of reading, in both English and Hebrew learning. Her curricula emphasizes social justice, social and emotional learning, and outdoor education, all tied in with Judaism. In addition, she is experienced in working with interfaith families.

"In order to allow students the maximum amount of growth, I provide them with hands-on, experiential activities with authentic problem solving and collaboration," Marcy said. "Education must encompass all parts of the student life: physical well-being, social/emotional growth, and positive interactions with the world."

Marcy's innovations at Beth Israel's



Marcy Thomaswick

Hebrew school include having mixed grade levels collaborate together and enabling children to learn to work independently in a "flipped classroom" approach whereby students watch videos about parshiot — Torah portions — at home and then discuss in class. Students also benefit from hands-on creative engagement. One recent project included a group project where students created a miniature edible Sukkah.

A member of Beth Israel Synagogue for more than five years, Marcy considers teaching Sunday school a sacred obligation.

"I'm very lucky. I've found my passion as a teacher and a Jew," she said. "I get to work with kids and have them experience Judaism as a joy as I do, so that their love goes beyond the bar mitzvah. I want them to know Judaism is not just going to synagogue, but also about mitzvah, such as walking your dog or cleaning up trash. I connect it to the ordinary things we already do."

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